

A Particular Relation sent from Sluys in the Low-Countries,
touching a Monster there lately born; attested by persons
of quality and learning.

WE whose Names are under written, Doctors of Physick, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, dwelling within the Town of Sluys, declare and certify by these presents, upon request of *Louys of Bills*, Gentleman, Lord of *Coppensdam* and *Bonem*, Baillif of the City and Jurisdiction of *Ardemburg*, That we being called by the foresaid Lord, to come to his House, he shewed unto us a Monstrous Birth of two late born Children, or one Monstrous Childe seeming to be two, of which, a Soldiers Wife was delivered at *Weerted*, on the *Elden*, a River near *Ardemburg*, which were of outward shape, as followeth.

To wit, That Birth had two Heads and two Necks, and four Arms; two whereof were behinde, clipping about the Neck, the one Hand-rift lying on the other; the two other Arms hung acrois downward, on each side of the Body: The Hands which they said were closed one in another, were now unclosed, and were laid down on either side also of the Body. The Body upward was of a double breadth, seeming to be of a double Breit, and all the other parts were double, yet with the skin covered, and lessening downward, appearing to unite at the Navel, which was but single; and from thence downward it was but small, as of one Body, and had but two Legs, and one Splay foot; the shape of the one was Female; the Face was full and fair, but the other was altogether misshapen; the Eyes stood where the Mouth should be, bothe together opening without Eye lids, but above had Haire Eye brows; above the Eyes, just in the middle, stood a Masculine Member or Genital of an ordinary bigness, hanging down to the right Eye: It had no Nose, and seemed to have a Mouth under the Chin, like unto the Fundament; it had three Teats, two stood right as they are ordinary, but the other stood above. Betwixt the two united Shoulders there was a monstrous space of half an Ell long.

We have seen the Dissection, made by the said owner of the Monster, and it was performed without the issuing forth of any Blood; he shewing unto us, That the Arteries, Veins, and Sinews, had their meeting in the Skin, the same Arteries and Veins being yet full of Blood.

The Inner Constitution and Form of this Monstrous Childe or Children, shewed unto us, was as followeth, The Brain of the one, to wit, of the Female, had her due Constitution; but the other was of a Monstrous Constitution: For the *Dura Mater* had made a partition across from above to the lower part, from the one Ear to the other, and both

both sides had Brains, but very little: In the Breast were found two Concavities, on the right side of which there were Twelve Ribs, and there were Twelve Ribs also on the left side: Of the Male-Childe the Back-bones spred downward at least four Fingers broad, and from thence running down, joyned all into one *Os sacrum*. There were found therein two Hearts, two Lungs, one great Liver, and one Gall; two Stomacks, the biggest whereof had joynt unto it a Mouth, and two Kidneys; that on the right, was bigger then that on the left. Of the Genital parts, is found onely that of the Female, the *Uterus* with the Bladder and the Matrix, being fastned to it. In the Mouth of the Female Body were two firm Teeth; but the Male-body had a very little hole instead of a Mouth, but without a Chin. The Skin of this Monstrous Body, behinde as well as before, was found to be interlarded with Fat. We under written testifie this for a truth, confirming it with our Seals; *Actum in Sluys, the Third of December. 1657.*

John Moerman, Doctor of Medicin.

Francis de Raed, Doctor of Medicin:

Ippe Sixius, Surgeon.

Joseph vander Heeden, Apothecary.

Cornelis de Coninck, Surgeon.

This Monster lived but few days, and presently after was Anatomised by an Ingenious Gentleman, nimed Mr *Louis de Bills*, Major of Ardrmberg, who is very skilful in this very rare Method, particular to himself, of making Dissections and separation of the several parts of any man, or Beast, without Effusion of any drop of Blood, leaving the Brain, Eyes, Face, Veins, and all other, both inward parts and excrementitious, wholly within, and in embalming the same Bodies, so that they may be easily kept and known for many scores of years without deperdition of Substance.

Two Doctors of Physick, and two Chirurgeons, with an Apothecary, viz. *John Moerman, Francis de Raed, Ippe Sixius, Cornelis de Coninck* and *Joseph vander Heeden*, all of the Town of Sluys, were present at the Dissection thereof, and do verifie these particulars of this Relation. There was an intent of having preserved the Monster, but some foolish women, who were kynred to the Mother, would by no means give way to the embalming, and so it was buried.

The said Mr *Louis de Bills*, who invented the aforesaid unusual way of Dissecting Bodies, is very well worthy the knowledge and imitation of the Physicians of England.

Whitehal, December 31.

This day, the most illustrious Lord, the Lord Richard Cromwel, took the Oath of Privy Counsellor, and sate a Member of his Highness most honorable Privy Council.